

according to the present invention. More specifically, in a preferred embodiment, the CODEC depicted in Fig. 2 is a Speech-Recognition Compatible Voice Coder RECOVC™ (RECOVC is a registered trademark of International Business Machines Corporation). The RECOVC™ system developed by IBM Corporation addresses various issues including:

1. Compression of speech recognition feature vectors, such that recognition rates are not impaired; and
2. Reconstruction of a good quality, intelligible speech from the speech recognition feature vectors.

A detailed discussion of components of the RECOVC system depicted in Fig. 2 can be found in U.S. Patent No. 6,009,387, issued on December 28, 1999 to Ramaswamy, et al., entitled "System and Method Of Compression/Decompressing A Speech Signal By Using Split Vector Quantization And Scalar Quantization," and U.S. Application Serial No. 09/410,085, filed on October 1, 1999, entitled "Method and System For Low Bit Rate Speech Coding Using Speech Recognition Features," which are commonly assigned and fully incorporated herein by reference. The RECOVC may be operated in two modes. A first mode comprises a full RECOVC implementation employing compression and speech

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